

1 Jeffrey L. Kessler (*pro hac vice*)  
JKessler@winston.com  
2 Sofia Arguello (*pro hac vice*)  
SArguello@winston.com  
3 WINSTON & STRAWN LLP  
200 Park Avenue  
4 New York, NY 10166-4193  
Telephone: (212) 294-6700  
5 Facsimile: (212) 294-4700

6 Jeanifer E. Parsigian (SBN: 289001)  
JParsigian@winston.com  
7 WINSTON & STRAWN LLP  
101 California Street, 34th Floor  
8 San Francisco, CA 94111  
Telephone: (415) 591-1000  
9 Facsimile: (415) 591-1400

10 *Attorneys for Non-Party*  
ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC.

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13                   **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
14                   **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
15                   **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

16  
17                   **IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE**  
ANTITRUST LITIGATION

18                   THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

19                   *Epic Games, Inc. v. Google LLC et al.*,  
20                   Case No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD

Case No. 3:21-md-02981-JD

NON-PARTY ACTIVISION BLIZZARD,  
INC.'S OBJECTION TO DISCLOSURE  
OF TESTIMONY AND DOCUMENTS  
AND REQUEST TO SEAL THE  
COURTROOM

The Honorable James Donato

1           **I. INTRODUCTION**

2           Pursuant to Northern District of California Civil Local Rule 79-5, the Stipulated Second  
 3 Amended Supplemental Protective Order Governing Production of Protected Non-Party Materials (*see*  
 4 ECF No. 248, hereinafter the “Protective Order”), and the Court’s minute entry dated October 31,  
 5 2023 (*see* ECF No. 727), non-party Activision Blizzard, Inc. (“Activision Blizzard”) submits this  
 6 Objection to Disclosure of Testimony and Documents and Request to Seal the Courtroom to ensure  
 7 that excerpts of the September 22, 2022 deposition testimony of Activision Blizzard’s Chief Financial  
 8 Officer, Armin Zerza (“Zerza Deposition”), documents introduced in connection therewith  
 9 (“Deposition Documents”),<sup>1</sup> and certain other exhibits (the “Exhibits”<sup>2</sup>) that include highly  
 10 confidential, non-public information of Activision Blizzard remain protected.<sup>3</sup>

11           **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

12           The trial record can be sealed if a party (or non-party) establishes “compelling reasons” that  
 13 outweigh the “general history of access and the public policies favoring disclosure.” *See Kamakana*  
 14 *v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178–79 (9th Cir. 2006). Compelling reasons exist for  
 15 sealing when a public filing “might [] become a vehicle for improper purposes.” *Id.* at 1179 (citation  
 16 and internal quotation marks omitted). One such improper purpose is where “a court record might be

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18           <sup>1</sup> Epic Games, Inc. (“Epic”) has indicated it intends to “introduce[] into evidence through . . .  
 19 [deposition] designations” the following documents: AB-GOOG-000492, AB-GOOG-000516, and  
 20 AB-GOOG-000432 (collectively, the “Deposition Documents”).

21           <sup>2</sup> The “Exhibits” refers collectively to Exhibits 142, 143, 148, 149, 150, 360, 384, and 1980, which  
 22 per Google counsel’s correspondence contain information that a party designated “NON-PARTY  
 23 HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES ONLY.”

24           <sup>3</sup> The Parties failed to provide reasonable (and the required) notice of their intent to use material that  
 25 was identified as “NON-PARTY HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES  
 26 ONLY” by Activision Blizzard or another party. The Protective Order requires that the Parties provide  
 27 at least four business days’ notice of their intent to use such material. Google notified Activision  
 28 Blizzard on November 6, 2023 at 2:51am Eastern Time that the Parties intended to use the Exhibits  
 “in open court on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.” Epic notified Activision Blizzard on November 5,  
 2023 at 2:00pm Eastern Time that “[i]t is possible that Mr. Zerza’s testimony will be played on  
 November 7, 2023,” but that “[n]ot all of [it] will necessarily be played.” Epic provided “narrowed  
 designations” and identified the Deposition Documents on November 6, 2023 at 3:59pm Eastern  
 Time—just four hours before this filing was due. The notice provided by counsel is obviously  
 deficient under the express terms of the Protective Order.

1 used . . . as sources of business information that might harm a [party's] competitive standing." See  
 2 *Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1097 (9th Cir. 2016) (internal quotation  
 3 marks omitted) (quoting *Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978)). Importantly,  
 4 the Court "balance[s] [] the public's right to access" with a "non-party's privacy interests." See  
 5 *O'Connor v. Uber Techs., Inc.*, 2015 WL 355496, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 27, 2015).

6       **III. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE ZERZA DEPOSITION TESTIMONY,  
 7 DEPOSITION DOCUMENTS, AND EXHIBITS POSES A COMPETITIVE  
 THREAT TO ACTIVISION BLIZZARD**

8       The testimony from the Zerza Deposition, the Deposition Documents, and the information  
 9 contained in the Exhibits are clearly information that could be exploited by other third parties or  
 10 employees of the Parties themselves to inform their own business strategies. The testimony,  
 11 Deposition Documents, and Exhibits were thus appropriately marked "NON-PARTY HIGHLY  
 12 CONFIDENTIAL – OUTSIDE COUNSEL EYES ONLY." See ECF No. 248.

13       The Zerza Deposition designations and the Deposition Documents relate to Activision  
 14 Blizzard's partnership with Google and exploration of an alternative app distribution platform.  
 15 Though these underlying "facts" (*i.e.*, that Activision Blizzard has a business deal with Google and  
 16 that Activision Blizzard has explored offering an alternative app store) have been made public during  
 17 the course of this litigation, the Zerza Deposition excerpts and the Deposition Documents go much  
 18 farther. They delve into the terms of the Activision Blizzard-Google partnership, the specifics of the  
 19 Activision Blizzard-Google negotiations, and the internal considerations affecting Activision  
 20 Blizzard's decision of whether to pursue an alternative app distribution platform. The Exhibits  
 21 similarly include details about the Activision Blizzard-Google negotiations and deal terms (Exhibits  
 22 142, 143, 148, 149, 150, 384, 1980), and competitively sensitive financial information (Exhibit 360).  
 23 This is plainly the sort of information that courts have sealed under the "compelling reasons" standard.  
 24 See *Epic Games, Inc. v. Apple Inc.*, 2021 WL 1925460, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 30, 2021) (finding  
 25 "compelling reasons" for sealing "highly confidential information, including . . . business decision-  
 26 making . . . belonging to [] a third-party non-party to th[e] action"); *Open Text S.A. v. Box, Inc.*, 2014  
 27 WL 7368594, at \*3 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 26, 2014) (sealing information "refer[ring] to [] confidential

1 financial and revenue information, disclosure of which is likely to cause harm to [business] if known  
 2 by competitors"); *United States v. Bazaarvoice, Inc.*, 2014 WL 11297188, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 21,  
 3 2014) (sealing third-party documents where they "contain[ed] . . . competitive information that could  
 4 cause damage to the third parties if made public"). The result should be the same here.

5 Activision Blizzard is a global developer and publisher, whose business is to develop, publish,  
 6 and distribute high-quality interactive entertainment content and services and deliver engaging  
 7 entertainment experiences to users worldwide. Maintaining the confidentiality of Activision's  
 8 Blizzard's business strategy, deal terms, and financials is paramount to Activision Blizzard's ability  
 9 to compete and its success. Disclosure of the Zerza Deposition excerpts, the Deposition Documents,  
 10 and the Exhibits will invariably result in Activision Blizzard competitors gaining access to information  
 11 that they can then use to their unearned competitive advantage. That threat is particularly acute  
 12 here, as this trial stands to gain significant media attention.

13 Finally, it bears mentioning that Activision Blizzard cooperated with the Parties' discovery  
 14 requests, and has repeatedly objected to Epic's use of that discovery to baselessly argue that Activision  
 15 Blizzard entered a *quid pro quo* arrangement with Google. With this in mind, *non-party* Activision  
 16 Blizzard's privacy interests are especially important. *See O'Connor*, 2015 WL 355496, at \*2.

#### 17 IV. CONCLUSION

18 For the foregoing reasons, Activision Blizzard respectfully requests that the Court seal the  
 19 courtroom when the Parties introduce testimony from the Zerza Deposition, the Deposition  
 20 Documents, or the Exhibits.

1 Dated: November 6, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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3 WINSTON & STRAWN LLP

4 By: /s/ Jeanifer E. Parsigian

5 Jeanifer E. Parsigian (SBN 289001)

6 101 California Street, 34th Floor

7 San Francisco, CA 94111-5840

Telephone: (415) 591-1000

jparsigian@winston.com

8 Jeffrey L. Kessler (*pro hac vice*)

9 Sofia Arguello (*pro hac vice*)

10 200 Park Avenue

11 New York, NY 10166-4193

12 Telephone: (212) 294-4698

Facsimile: (212) 294-4700

jkessler@winston.com

sarguello@winston.com

13 *Counsel for Non-Party Activision Blizzard, Inc.*

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